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areolae of the leaves of a given species always vary inversely in size with the age of the tree, a fact of very considerable interest and importance will have been established.

Fern students should give this hypothesis a thorough test. Anyone can do this provided sufficient care is taken. The only requisites are carefulness, time and diligence. Reports of such studies will be gladly received for publication in the JOURNAL.

In order to test the hypothesis in the case of any particular kind of fern, the first thing to be done will be to obtain plants showing a considerable range in age. This will need great care, as it is not always easy to tell whether a small plant is a sporeling or stem offshoot from another plant. With the proper material selected, the next step would be the measurement of the spaces between veinlets to determine whether they are constantly different in size in plants of different ages. In order to get results which would be at all conclusive, it would be necessary to examine a large amount of material. *Onoclea sensibilis* suggests itself as obviously the best adapted of our common temperate ferns, but it would be worth while applying the theory to the free-veined species as well.

R. C. B.

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### American Fern Society

Photographs of ferns and of fern students always make good copy for the JOURNAL, and the editor will be glad to receive any such as may be sent in, especially if accompanied by a contribution toward the expense of reproduction. A full page half-tone plate costs about three dollars; smaller cuts at proportionate rates. It is hoped that at least two such plates may be printed each number.

More can be printed if the members like them well enough to help defray their cost. Up to the present time, several members have helped in this way.

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The treasurer states that there are a number of people on the rolls of the Society, to whom the JOURNAL has been sent regularly, who have not yet paid their dues for 1912, nor have they replied to any of these communications from the treasurer. We do not wish to lose any one who desires to remain a member and qualifies therefor. If, however, any one wishes to be dropped from the rolls at the present time or in the future, the favor of a post-card, informing the Secretary of that fact would be greatly appreciated.

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Fern specimens wanted: Rev. J. A. Bates sends in the following notice:

"I want to fill out a collection according to Gray's New Manual and need the following species: *Phegopteris Robertiana*, *Notholaena dealbata*, *Cheilanthes alabamensis*, *C. Feei*, *Cryptogramma acrostichoides*, *Polystichum Lonchitis*. Tell me what I can give for one or all."

J. A. BATES,  
S. ROYALSTON, Mass.

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Through the kindness of Mr. W. R. Maxon, of the staff of the National Museum, all members of the Society received recently copies of his interesting article on "Tree Ferns of North America." The article deals with these ferns in an introductory and historical manner, makes note of their economic uses and finally treats of the various genera involved. The characters of the genera are carefully described and splendidly illustrated in fifteen photographic plates.

The Curator of the Herbarium sends word that the Herbarium has recently received a valuable accession in the shape of a collection of Canadian ferns, the gift of Prof. O. E. Jennings.

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As a reminiscence of the very pleasant and successful field meeting held at Hartford in June, 1911, and by way of suggesting that other similar meetings be planned



ON A FERN OUTING

for this year, a picture showing some of those present is here reproduced. One of the best features of that meeting was the opportunity which it afforded those present to become acquainted with each other. The members shown in the picture are, from left to right, E. J. Winslow, C. H. Bissell, H. G. Rugg, Philip Dowell, W. B. Rossberg and H. C. Bigelow.